

PROCLAMATION **DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH**APRIL 2017

WHEREAS, distracted driving occurs when drivers divert their attention away from the task of driving to focus on any other activity including: eating, grooming, visiting with passengers, or use of electronic devices; and

WHEREAS, distracted driving is a preventable, life-threatening practice; and

WHEREAS, distracted driving can result in injuries to motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists; and

WHEREAS, engaging in activities such as talking on a phone, texting, checking social media, emailing, selecting music, programming GPS devices, or other uses of portable or in-dash devices while driving triples the likelihood of getting into an accident; and

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that at any given daylight moment approximately 660,000 people across America are using cell phones or manipulating electronic devices while driving; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the number of crashes as well as improve driver safety, North Dakota's motorists should commit to adopting and maintaining safe behavior while behind the wheel.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim April 2017 **DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH** in the State of North Dakota.

Doug Kurgui Governor

ATTEST:

Alvin A. Jaeger Secretary of State